



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture  
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## 2007 Montana and U.S. Honey Production

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Montana honey producers with five or more colonies during 2007 produced 9.2 million pounds of honey, down 12 percent from 2006, according to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. The estimate of honey production includes production by colonies that were in the state for part of the year. There were 135,000 colonies producing honey in 2007, compared with 132,000 colonies in 2006. The honey yield per colony was 68 pounds, down 11 pounds from a year ago. Honey stocks on December 15, 2007 were estimated at 2.2 million pounds, up from 2.0 million pounds in 2006.

Prices for Montana honey decreased \$0.02 from 2006 to \$0.94 per pound in 2007. The 2007 value of honey production was \$8.63 million dollars, down 14 percent from last year due to lower prices and production.

U.S. honey production in 2007 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2006. There were 2.44 million colonies producing honey in 2007, up 2 percent from 2006. Yield per colony averaged 60.8 pounds, down 6 percent from the 64.7 pounds in 2006. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 52.5 million pounds on December 15, 2007, down 13 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

The 2007 all honey price was 103.2 cents per pound, down slightly from 103.6 cents in 2006. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2006 crop reflect honey sold in 2006 and 2007.

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